

# The LIBRARY CHRONICLE

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OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

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WE WORK IN THE DARK . . . WE DO  
WHAT WE CAN . . . WE GIVE WHAT  
WE HAVE . . . OUR DOUBT IS OUR  
PASSION AND OUR PASSION IS  
OUR TASK . . . THE REST IS THE  
MADNESS OF ART · HENRY JAMES

# The LIBRARY CHRONICLE

VOL. II

\* NO. 4

## Washington: Symbol of the United States in Mexico 1800-1823

THE LATIN AMERICAN SECTION of the library has an excellent collection of early nineteenth century Mexican publications, especially newspapers published during the first twenty-three years. Here are complete or almost complete files of the *Gazeta de México* (1784-1821), *Gaceta Imperial de México* (1821-1823), *Diario de México* (1805-1816), *El Amigo de la Patria* (1812-1813), *Noticioso General* (1815-1823), *La Abeja Poblana* (1820-1821), *El Conductor Eléctrico* (1820), *La Sabatina Universal* (1822), *La Abispa de Chilpancingo* (1821-1826), *El Farol* (1821-1822), *El Fanal del Imperio Mexicano* (1822), *El Hombre Libre* (1822), *El Aguila Mexicana* (1823-1828), and *El Sol* (1821-1832), together with either originals or facsimile reproductions of the insurgent newspapers of the period, such as *El Despertador Americano* (Guadalajara, 1810-1811), *Ilustrador Nacional* (Sultepec, 1812), *Ilustrador Americano* (1812-1813), *Semanario Patriótico Americano* (1812-1813), *Correo Americano del Sur* (1813), *Gaceta del Gobierno Provisional Mexicano de las Provincias del Poniente* (1817), and *Diario Político Militar Mejicano* (1821). These periodicals are basic material for the study of Spanish and Mexican attitudes toward the United States—her people and her doctrines—during this crucial period in Mexican history.

Spain in the first quarter of the past century considered subversive any writing that dealt with the life, the people, or the ideas of the rising young republic to the north of New Spain. Hence great effort was made to guard the Spanish colonies from contamination with the liberal ideas of the United States. Careful scanning of the books and periodicals published in Mexico City prior to her independence indicates that the mother country was highly successful at least in this field in realizing her desires. Only one inexplicable but highly significant failure comes to light. With Number 2579 of October 23, 1812, the *Diario de México*, the colony's outstanding literary journal, began the publication of a Spanish translation of the Constitution of the United States and continued it through Number 2594 of November 7, 1812. This number contained also the Bill of Rights in Spanish.

Examination of Mexican revolutionary publications of the same period shows, however, that in spite of Spain's strict censorship of the press and rigid laws prohibiting the introduction of such subversive literature in any form, the colony did learn of the leaders and activities of their northern neighbor. These rebel periodicals reveal, furthermore, that the American who symbolized all that the United States represented was George Washington. The initial number of the first insurgent newspaper, *El Despertador Americano*, in an impassioned appeal to the people of Mexico to support the revolutionary leader, Miguel Hidalgo, referred to him as "the new Washington, whom a merciful God has sent to Mexico."<sup>1</sup> The fourth issue called Hidalgo again the new Washington.<sup>2</sup> And over two years later, after the untimely execution of Hidalgo by the Spanish forces, another insurgent newspaper, the *Semanario Patriótico Americano*, in speaking of him said:

<sup>1</sup>*El Despertador Americano*, No. 1 (Guadalajara, December 20, 1810), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, No. 4 (Guadalajara, January 3, 1811), p. 26.

"We shall place his bust alongside that of Washington and of Trajan."<sup>3</sup>

Periodicals and books of the post-revolutionary period show that Washington continued to hold the admiration and respect of the Mexicans. Less than two months after Iturbide and his victorious army had entered Mexico City, on September 27, 1821, Carlos María Bustamante published in his newspaper, *La Abispa de Chilpancingo*, a Spanish translation of pages 619-625 of volume IV of John Marshall, *The Life of Washington*.<sup>4</sup> These pages describe in touching manner Washington's farewell to his army at New York on December 4, 1783, and his resignation of his commission to the Congress on December 23, 1783. Bustamante prefaced this translation with the following brief introduction:

I have said many times that Señor Iturbide should not look for heroes of antiquity to imitate but that he has the model in the immortal Washington, president of the United States of America. His resignation of his command is one of the most important events of his life. My pen is not capable of presenting the story vividly and therefore I shall go to the biography of this extraordinary man, regretting that the beauty of its presentation has lost so much through my translation.<sup>5</sup>

A short time later another Mexico City periodical, the *Semanario Político y Literario*, began the publication of Spanish translations of political documents of the United States, among which were two of Washington's addresses. On November 28, 1821, appeared the "Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms of July 6, 1775."<sup>6</sup> The next two

<sup>3</sup>*Semanario Patriótico Americano*, No. 25 (January 3, 1813), p. 221.

<sup>4</sup>*La Abispa de Chilpancingo*, No. 3 (ca. November 8, 1821), pp. 32-34; John Marshall, *The Life of Washington* (5v, Philadelphia, 1805-1807), IV, 619-625.

<sup>5</sup>*La Abispa de Chilpancingo*, No. 3 (ca. November 8, 1821).

<sup>6</sup>*Semanario Político y Literario*, IV, No. 2 (Mexico, November 28, 1821), 25-35.

issues ran the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation<sup>7</sup> and the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.<sup>8</sup> Each of the following two numbers began with an address by Washington; namely, his first address to the joint session of Congress immediately following his inauguration as president on April 30, 1789,<sup>9</sup> and his Farewell Address of September 17, 1796.<sup>10</sup>

Either Iturbide did not comprehend the subtle implications of Carlos María Bustamante's publication of Washington's farewell speeches of 1783 and of the two speeches published in the *Semanario Político y Literario* or he chose to ignore these implications. His unwillingness to resign any of his new found power was soon made evident and newspapers quickly reflected this attitude. The United States was no longer mentioned except in reference to international affairs concerning Mexico. *El Sol* of April 27, 1822, carried Monroe's message on the revolution in Spanish America made to the House of Representatives on March 8, 1822,<sup>11</sup> and subsequent numbers expanded this subject.<sup>12</sup> Similar information was printed in the official *Gaceta del Gobierno Imperial de México*.<sup>13</sup> Perhaps numbers 45 and 46 of *El Sol* contributed inadvertently to Iturbide's being crowned emperor. In an article entitled "Proyectos Republicanos" (Republican Schemes), after having discussed what Mexico would have to do in order to adopt

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, No. 4 (December 12, 1821), pp. 73-87.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, No. 5 (December 19, 1821), pp. 111-128.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, No. 6 (December 26, 1821), pp. 129-134.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, No. 7 (January 2, 1822), pp. 153-168.

<sup>11</sup>*El Sol*, alance to No. 42 (April 27, 1822), pp. 185-190.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, suplemento to No. 43 (Mexico, May 4, 1822), p. 196 and No. 44 (May 8, 1822), pp. 197-200.

<sup>13</sup>*Gaceta del Gobierno Imperial de México*, II, No. 28 (April 25, 1822), p. 213; No. 31 (April 30, 1822), pp. 231-233; and No. 32 extraordinaria (May 1, 1822), pp. 239-242.

a government like that of the United States, the editors concluded that the Mexican nation would be best served by the adoption of a hereditary monarchy.<sup>14</sup> This conclusion was published on May 15, 1822. Four days later Iturbide became emperor of Mexico.

After Iturbide's coronation news from the United States practically ceased to appear in Mexican publications. "Both *El Sol*, which advocated monarchy with a European prince on the throne, and *El Hombre Libre*, which supported republicanism, were suppressed."<sup>15</sup> The official *Gaceta Imperial de México* devoted its pages almost exclusively to decrees and orders and to felicitations of Iturbide in his new role.

Iturbide's empire was short-lived, however. On March 19, 1823, less than a year after he had been crowned, he was forced to abdicate. *El Sol* reappeared on April 2, 1823, and in its first number paid tribute to Washington. In a discussion of the reasons for its suspension of publication, the editors said: "Ambition blinded him [Iturbide] whom we had thought to be another Washington, . . ."<sup>16</sup> From this time on there was much writing about the United States and its government and Washington continued to be symbolic of its greatness.

James Wilkinson, on July 21, 1823, through the Mexican Deputy, José Antonio Valdés, offered a large Stuart<sup>17</sup> portrait of George Washington to the Constituent Congress. Valdés in presenting the offer to the Congress spoke of Washington as "the hero of the new world, the hero of heroes, the inspira-

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<sup>14</sup>*El Sol*, Nos. 45-46 (May 11, 1822, and May 15, 1822), pp. 201-202; 205-207.

<sup>15</sup>Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Mexico* (6v, San Francisco, 1883-1888), IV, 78.

<sup>16</sup>*El Sol*, II, No. 1 (April 2, 1823), p. 1.

<sup>17</sup>James Ripley Jacobs, *Tarnished Warrior* (New York, 1938), p. 337.

tion of liberty, the model of free people."<sup>18</sup> In connection with this event Carlos María Bustamante wrote in his private diary: "May God grant that the memory of this person, stimulated by his picture, may inspire many with potent desires to imitate him."<sup>19</sup> The congressional committee that was appointed to decide what action the Congress should take concerning the offer proposed that the portrait should be hung in the halls of Congress at the same time that those of the first liberators were hung there. Meanwhile it was to be hung in the congressional committee room.<sup>20</sup>

Possibly one of the most interesting printed documents of this period of Mexican history in relation to George Washington and the United States Constitution was published in mid 1823. At this period disintegration of Mexico appeared imminent. Many of its leaders feared complete anarchy. In this situation *El Sol*, on August 1, 1823, announced for sale in Mariano Galván's Bookstore copies of the United States Constitution preceded by two of Washington's speeches. The advertisement continued:

In the present state of affairs, when the Mexican nation is to be constituted, there is hardly a more important work than this we announce. This constitution, one of the most beautiful products of the human spirit, is the basis on which is founded the simplest, most liberal and happiest government known to history. The reading of and meditation on this precious charter will enlighten more and more the future constituent congress, on whom will depend entirely the happiness of six million people. And, although we suppose the representatives of that body filled with the most luminous ideas, nevertheless,

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<sup>18</sup>*El Sol*, No. 38 (July 22, 1823), p. 179; *Aguila Mexicana*, No. 99 (July 23, 1823), p. 365; Juan A. Mateos, *Historia parlamentaria de los congresos mexicanos* (25v, Mexico, 1877-1912), II, 451.

<sup>19</sup>Carlos María Bustamante, *Diario histórico de México* (Zacatecas, 1896), p. 486.

<sup>20</sup>Mateos, *op. cit.*, II, 457; *El Sol*, No. 47 (July 31, 1823), p. 185; *Aguila Mexicana*, No. 108 (July 31, 1823), p. 394.



we believe that they will consider with interest a constitution that has merited the universal appreciation of learned men.

Washington's Farewell Address and his Circular Letter Addressed to the Governors of All the States [on Disbanding the Army, June 8, 1783] are filled with that unction and candor becoming to the greatest public man that the world has seen. On all sides he sheds the spirit of union and fraternity, the spirit that is the sole support sustaining the United States, the spirit that has made the North flourish and that will lay the foundation for the greatness of Mexico.<sup>21</sup>

The book here advertised was entitled *Constitución Federal de los Estados Unidos de America con Dos Discursos del General Washington*. The title page carried a quotation in Latin from the *Jugurthine War* by Sallust and a Spanish translation of it, which read "Through unity small States become great; discord destroys even the largest."<sup>22</sup> Then followed a brief notice to the reader, which explained the reasons for the publication in the following words:

Some speak of confederation and federalism without the vaguest notion of the meaning of the words. These truly generic terms have variations and degrees that one must distinguish carefully in order not to be mistaken nor to cause others to be mistaken on a subject on which depends nothing less than the existence or dissolution of the State. One of these variations is sufficiently defined in the last constitution of the United States. Therefore it has been thought most useful to reprint it so that through its distribution to all the provinces the citizens may be instructed in the principles on which the United States is founded and in the strength of the bond which binds those States who before their emancipation were independent of one another and did not form a whole as homogeneous and compact as ours. Here is a paramount consideration, one that should be ever-present with those who, acting in good faith and not from vile and wicked stimuli, busy themselves with the subject of confederation.

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<sup>21</sup>*El Sol*, No. 48 (August 1, 1823), p. 192.

<sup>22</sup>Cayo Salustio Crispo, *Obras* (2v, Madrid, 1804), II, 28.

Also with the purpose of contributing to the public enlightenment in so far as is within our power, some speeches of the immortal Washington have been inserted. Perhaps due to the haste with which they have been translated into our language, errors will be found in them; but notwithstanding these accidental defects there will be found a multitude of illuminating and irresistible principles of government, which by themselves alone are enough to guide us in our present situation.

May heaven grant that our fellow-citizens will profit by the writings and ideas of such a worthy man. No, these are not the theories of a sophist who wishes to rule the world from his study; they are the fruit of the experience of a superior person, who, after having saved his country from slavery, gave it the magnificent character which we so justly admire.<sup>23</sup>

Whether or not this book was so widely distributed as was desired by its publishers cannot be said. That it was sent to one province is known, however. Servando Teresa de Mier, always a mordant speaker and writer and quite likely the translator of this item, sent a copy of it to the municipal council of Monterrey. In his letter of August 9, 1823, to this body, he wrote:

I am sending you a copy of the Constitution of the United States preceded by two letters of the immortal hero Washington in order that from his mouth the demagogues may hear the wholesome maxims of unity.<sup>24</sup>

NETTIE LEE BENSON

LATIN-AMERICAN LIBRARIAN

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<sup>23</sup>*Constitución federal de los Estados Unidos de América, con dos discursos del general Washington* (Mexico, 1823), pp. i-ii.

<sup>24</sup>*Diez cartas, hasta hoy inéditas de Fray Servando Teresa de Mier* (Monterrey, 1940), p. 19.

## The First Book Printed In Texas

**T**HE TEXAS GAZETTE made its debut on Friday, September 25, 1829, at San Felipe, the seat of Austin's colony. From that day forward Texas has had a printing press somewhere within its bounds. Six weeks later the letter below was addressed to the editor:

Mr. Cotten—As a general wish appears to prevail, that translations of the laws and orders of government, on the subject of colonization, should be published in pamphlet form; it is highly interesting to all emigrants, as well as to those who are already settled, that this should be done; and it also accords with the views of government, that the laws should be promulgated, as speedily as possible, in the different languages in common use, in the country. It is understood that accurate translations of all the laws and orders, on colonization, from the year 1821 up to the present time, accompanied with an explanatory introduction, is in a state of preparation, and that you have been applied to, to print it, in pamphlet form; but have stated that you could not do so, owing to the want of hands, without suspending the publication of the Texas Gazette, for two or three weeks; a thing which you were doubtful would not be agreeable to your subscribers. — We are, however, of the opinion that your subscribers, so far from being dissatisfied with you, will be highly gratified, for it is evident that much more general and public good will result from the publication of the Colonization Laws, than from the three or four numbers of the Gazette, whose publication would be suspended; and besides, it will ultimately be no loss to the subscribers, for it is well understood that they are to receive fifty-two numbers for one year's subscription. We, therefore, earnestly solicit you to suspend the Gazette long enough to print the beforementioned pamphlet; and accommodate

Many Subscribers.

Austin had only a few days before the date of this request completed the manuscript of his book. It is obvious that it was Austin's book that the subscribers wanted printed without delay.

"In order that the settlers," said Austin, "who have been established in Texas, under the authority granted by the government to Mr. Stephen Fuller Austin, may fully understand the means by which they obtained admission, and procured titles for land in this country, and the nature of those titles; the following succinct narrative is presented to them as an introduction to the translations of the several laws, decrees, and contracts, on colonization, which follow in regular order of their dates. Manuscript translations of these documents, have heretofore been made, and published, so far as it was practicable to give publicity to them in that shape, and the originals have always been open to the inspection of any one, who called at the office for that purpose. The earliest, and only opportunity which has ever occurred, of publishing them in print, is now embraced."

Editor Cotten granted the request of his subscribers, and announced that "the next number of the Gazette will appear on the first Saturday in December." However, number seven did not appear till January 23, 1830. Hear his excuse:

Three hundred copies of the pamphlet alluded to (after waiting several weeks, for a supply of stationery which had been ordered from New Orleans, in September last; but which, from circumstances, over which we had no control, we did not receive until the first part of this year,) have been completed, and are now ready for sale. We hope public expectation will labor under no disappointment after a perusal of it as relates to the importance of its publication.

We recommend the careful perusal of it to every individual colonist, *as the guarantee of his vested rights*—and to every stranger, or foreigner who is desirous of becoming a colonist in the republic of Mexico, we recommend it as a guide.

# TRANSLATION

OF THE  
*James F. Perry*  
LAWS, ORDERS, AND CONTRACTS,

ON

*M. AUSTIN BRYAN.*

## COLONIZATION,

FROM JANUARY, 1821, UP TO THIS TIME,

BY VIRTUE OF WHICH

COL. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,

HAS INTRODUCED AND SETTLED FOREIGN EMIGRANTS, IN

# TEXAS,

WITH AN

## EXPLANATORY INTRODUCTION

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SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TEXAS:

PRINTED BY ADWIN B. COTTEN.

November 1829.

So the first book printed in Texas did not come off the press till 1830; however, a portion of the text, including the title page, was printed in 1829. A few copies remain; it has become a rare book. Several so-called reprints have been made. None of them contains the complete text. The title of the original reads: *Translation of the Laws, Orders, and Contracts, on Colonization, from January, 1821, up to This Time, in virtue of which Col. Stephen F. Austin, has introduced and settled foreign emigrants in Texas, with an Explanatory Introduction. San Filipe de Austin, Texas: Printed by Godwin B. Cotten. November, 1829.*<sup>1</sup>

"The idea of forming a settlement of North Americans in the wilderness of Texas," the Explanatory Introduction states, "originated with Mr. Moses Austin, of Missouri." This book contains a succinct account of how the idea became reality under the masterly direction of his son, Stephen F. Austin.

E. W. WINKLER

BIBLIOGRAPHER IN THE LIBRARY

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<sup>1</sup>70 p. 1 l. 12.5 x 20 cm.

Collation: Cover title, verso blank; Introduction [historical sketch], p. [3]-24; Advertisement [preface, dated November 1, 1829,] p. [25]-27; Translations, p. [28]-58; Civil regulations, p. [59]-65; Criminal regulations, p. [66]-70; Errata [a document omitted from its proper place], [1] p.

## A Thackeray Forgery

THE RARE BOOK COLLECTION of The University of Texas recently acquired as a gift from a benefactor a first edition of Thackeray's *Journey from Cornhill to Grand Cairo*. Inserted lightly among the front end pages was the following holograph letter:

Onslow Square  
Brompton  
June 12th

Dear young Sir

My enormously dear young Sir,—I knew full well you wd beg my pardon before thirty hours had passed. Your stupidity of last night not only shocked but pained me.—Let me, young Sir, advise you a little. Taboo cards and dice: give over desiring to make a fortune without working for one—(Did you work most dreadfully hard, you might probably never make one): still, you might try. Give over your present friends. Turn over a new leaf in your way of living—if you can. Don't break your mothers heart (you are indeed giving her much pain): don't fancy yourself a young "buck" when you may perhaps be nothing than an infernally bad boy.

You are but a boy. Pray take the advice of one who knew your father and who knows your good, kind, fault-forgiving mother well. Lead a better life. You will find a honourable, steady life pay better than the one you have been leading lately.

Yours truly  
W M Thackeray

The provenance of the letter, which came immediately from a reputable dealer, cannot be traced. Upon first examination it appeared genuine. Its presence in a first edition of one of

Thackeray's books was disarming, the neat upright hand looked to be that of Thackeray, the slovenly punctuation is characteristic, the style has a Thackerayan ring, and the content is at least appropriate to one who, like Thackeray, learned painfully the lesson that the letter is trying to teach. The signature, though differing somewhat from other specimens in the Texas collection, is so nearly like them as to pass casual inspection. More careful examination, however, indicates beyond reasonable doubt that the letter is a forgery.

Several points ought to arouse one's suspicions. First of all are the vague dating and the indefinite salutation of the letter. Thackeray lived in Onslow Square from May, 1854, till March, 1862; thus there is a span of eight years within which the letter might be thought to have been written. As to the addressee, there is no possible way of checking on his identity. Any young sir with a propensity for gambling would answer the description. It is less remarkable that the salutation should be couched in the playfully formal phrase "Dear young sir" than that the advice in paragraph two should be addressed to "young Sir" rather than to the recipient by name. Yet the writer says that he knows the boy's mother well and that he knew the boy's presumably dead father; consequently he must have known the boy's name well.

Now it is well known that forgers find it easier to simulate handwriting than to avoid fatal blunders of content, and that accordingly they often take pains to be vague and indefinite. The vagueness of the date and the lack of identity of the addressee might well suggest forgery here, but only a careful comparison of the signature and handwriting of the TxU letter with authentic specimens of Thackeray's handwriting could determine whether or not it is a forgery. It was apparent at once that in general appearance the TxU letter resembles known letters of Thackeray very closely. The writing, letter by letter, is almost identical with Thackeray's, though the characters are smaller and the lines are a little closer to-



gether than Thackeray's usually are.<sup>1</sup> Fortunately I was also able to compare the letter with a number of Thackeray forgeries in the Berg Collection. The identification of the Berg letters as forgeries was made by Mr. Gordon N. Ray, who has undoubtedly seen more of Thackeray's handwriting than anyone else and who ought to know a forged Thackeray letter when he sees it. The handwriting in the Berg letters and the TxU letter is unquestionably the same; therefore the TxU letter must be a forgery.

Of the forger, whose activities were discovered as early as 1884, Mr. Ray writes: "Since he had access to channels through which authentic letters passed and since, as Lady Ritchie remarked, his simulation of Thackeray's writing was 'distressingly clever,' his work has generally been accepted as genuine. There are few large collections of Thackerayana that do not contain at least one letter from his hand."<sup>2</sup> The forger's knowledge of Thackeray's life was faulty, Mr. Ray adds, so that he frequently betrayed himself by dating letters from Kensington when Thackeray was living in Brompton and vice versa. In the TxU letter, however, he was clever enough not to expose himself to such errors. Of the content of the forger's letters Mr. Ray remarks: "His facetiousness is painful, his sentiment is inane, and his general observations are invariably the most insipid platitudes."<sup>3</sup> In the TxU letter, in spite of this observation, there is nothing that might not have been written by Thackeray.

To the twenty-odd examples of the forger's work already known, The University of Texas now contributes another.

C. L. CLINE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

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<sup>1</sup>These characteristics of a prolific forger of Thackeray's letters are mentioned by Mr. Gordon N. Ray in Appendix XXVII of *The Letters and Private Papers of William Makepeace Thackeray* (Cambridge, 1947), IV, 451-52.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 451.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

# Larks, Purple Cows, and Whitmanana:

## Some Recent Gifts from New York City

THE LIBRARY HAS RECEIVED as a gift from Mrs. Frank Julian Sprague of New York City sixteen numbers (and the index to Volume I) of *The Lark*, giving us a file of that delightful periodical of the mauve decade complete except for the index to the second volume and *Epilark*. The way in which this gift came to the Library makes an interesting story.

Mrs. Sprague is a recognized collector in several fields; but her Burgess collection is noteworthy because it is an outgrowth of her long friendship with the author and is probably the most complete accumulation of his works in existence. But it was her interest in Whitman that brought her and the Library together. A friend, knowing of her exceptional Whitman collection, sent her a copy of THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE which carried a description of the Whitman gift of Mr. and Mrs. DeGolyer. Finding much in the magazine to interest her, Mrs. Sprague asked for a complete file. In the Spring 1945 issue she read of the purchase by the Library of eight numbers of *The Lark*, and wrote, offering to complete the file from duplicates in her library.

*The Lark* was a unique periodical—unique in several respects. It was begun by Gelett Burgess and Bruce Porter “just for a lark,” and thereby got its name.<sup>1</sup> The editors did not

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<sup>1</sup>For a detailed account see a letter from Burgess to Carolyn Wells and an account by her of her association with *The Lark*, printed in *The Colophon* for 1932.

wish to be bothered with subscriptions, and, to discourage them, made the annual subscription price one dollar, although the monthly issues sold for five cents each. This anomalous procedure of charging sixty cents for twelve items when paid for separately and a dollar when paid for all at once provoked a great deal of amazed and amused comment, but failed to accomplish its purpose: subscriptions flowed in.

After two years, when the magazine had become financially profitable, Burgess dropped it, deciding that he had had enough of it. He explained this very unusual course by a quotation from *Pickwick Papers*:

"That's rayther a sudden pull-up, ain't it, Sammy?" inquired Mr. Weller.

"Not a bit on it," said Sam; "she'll wish there was more, and that's the great art o' letter writin'."

The magazine was printed on brownish bamboo paper, several bales of which Burgess and Porter found in Chinatown. The format was practically the same throughout its existence: a cover design which, although different each month, always included the picture of a lark—perhaps it would be more accurate to say of a bird which was naturally supposed to represent a lark—and under the picture a quotation concerning a lark; twelve pages of pictures, essays, verse, fiction, and nonsense—nonsense which was designed to be "understood by your Grandfather and your Grandson." In many issues this was all the work of Burgess, for Porter dropped out of the picture after the third issue and for a time Burgess carried on alone. The names of several contributors appeared on the editorial page, all of them, however, pseudonyms for Burgess.

The most unusual thing about *The Lark* is the poem which appeared in the first number and which became too popular to suit the poet. "The Purple Cow" is still, after more than fifty years, one of the best known bits of nonsense verse in

the language, and multitudes who never heard of *The Lark* are familiar with the poem. Burgess expressed his reaction to the spectacular popularity of this masterpiece in the last issue of *The Lark*:

Ah, yes, I wrote the "Purple Cow"—  
I'm sorry, now, I wrote it.  
But I can tell you Anyhow  
I'll kill you if you quote it.

Two of the numbers sent by Mrs. Sprague have an additional personal value. Number 9 contains a page of four silhouettes, those of four contributors to *The Lark*. Burgess made these, so he told Mrs. Sprague, by having the subject stand behind a glass while he traced the head. Mrs. Sprague has initialed each silhouette as it was identified for her by the artist. Number 11 contains a double-page map, which, in Mrs. Sprague's gift copy, is autographed by Burgess.

In addition to the issues of *The Lark* and a reprint of an article by Burgess, "Short Words Are Words of Might," Mrs. Sprague presented to the Library a variety of Whitman items, including catalogues of exhibits, clippings, reprints, small pictures, and book plates and autographed Christmas cards of Henry S. Saunders, noted Whitman scholar and collector.

EDLEEN BEGG

INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH

## American First Editions at TxU

### V. ROBERT WILLIAM CHAMBERS (1865-1933)

Robert William Chambers is a good example of a type of writer whose books may some day be scarce because no one has thought them worth the bother of saving. The "light" popular fiction of their day, they have been worn out and discarded in some of the public libraries and are probably mildewing on the shelves of summer homes and drying out in attics. They number, by my count, eighty-eight, and not one is remarkable for literary art. Rupert Hughes, it is true, has said that Chambers "had his ideals and lived up to them. He strove for action, character, and was faithful to beauty. . . . Take away from our literature the works of Robert Chambers and a great and brilliant life would be left without presentation; a swarm of men and women as typical of our time as any other groups, and living our life to the full, would be entirely omitted from the literary parade." But Hughes was paying tribute to a personal friend. Most of us, once started, will read to the end of a Chambers story, but we will not think it "great." Chambers was essentially a writer of serials for the magazines. He started out to be a painter and illustrator, and wound up on an 800-acre estate, collecting butterflies and antiques and paying the expenses by an incredible fluency. One wonders how many authors have beaten his record of *eight* posthumously published novels.

There is room, however, in a truly great collection of Americana for a Chambers shelf. His very contemporaneity will some day interest the social historian. His historical romances are part of the picture of how Americans have looked

at the past; his stories of contemporary life are full of comment on such antiquities as the woman suffrage movement, the coming of the automobile, the prohibition era, and the age of the flapper. His nature stories for juvenile readers, his detective fiction, his Kiplingesque verse—all are flickering and valuable reflections of the epoch between Roosevelt I and Roosevelt II.

Furthermore, the Chambers books are a good place to follow the development of bookmaking in a somewhat florid period. He must have been one of the best properties of the Appleton firm, but among his other publishers were F. T. Neely, Stone & Kimball, Putnam's, Harper's, Stokes, George D. Doran, and, of course, A. L. Burt and Gossett & Dunlap. Charles Dana Gibson and Howard Chandler Christy both owed some shekels to Chambers, and his other illustrators include Frederick Birch, A. I. Keller, A. B. Wenzell, Henry Hutt, Harrison Cady, Frank Craig, W. D. Stevens, G. C. Wilmshurst, Norman Price, Edmund Frederick, Elizabeth Shippen Green, Frederick Richardson, Emily Benson Knipe, and Bror Thure Thulstrup.

In 1940 TxU owned, so far as can be discovered, four Chambers titles, two of them gifts from Caroline Margaret Campbell, whose large collection of detective stories provides a great source of recreation for tired professors. Since then effort has been made to bring together a more representative holding, until there are now forty-seven titles. Of these, twenty-four are first editions. Most of the acquisitions have cost from fifty cents to \$2. The only really expensive Chambers "first" is *The King in Yellow* (1895), which has an auction record ranging from \$8 to \$45. TxU could use a first edition of this book, but filling out the run of titles is perhaps more immediately important. The "wants" number forty-one:

*The Maker of Moons* (1896).  
*The Mystery of Choice* (1897).  
*The Haunts of Men* (1898).

*The Cambric Mask* (1899).  
*Outsiders: An Outline* (1899).  
*Orchard-Land* (1903).  
*In Search of the Unknown* (1904).  
*River-Land* (1904).  
*A Young Man in a Hurry and Other Stories* (1904).  
*Forest-Land* (1905).  
*The Reckoning* (1905).  
*Mountain-Land* (1906).  
*Garden-Land* (1907).  
*Hide and Seek in Forest-Land* (1909).  
*Blue-bird Weather* (1912).  
*Japonette* (1912).  
*Between Friends* (1914).  
*Anne's Bridge* (1914).  
*Who Goes There!* (1915).  
*The Better Man* (1916).  
*The Girl Philippa* (1916).  
*The Dark Star* (1917).  
*The Talkers* (1923).  
*The Hi-Jackers* (1923).  
*The Girl in Golden Rags* (1924?, 1936).  
*The Sun Hawk* (1928).  
*The Rogue's Moon* (1928).  
*The Happy Parrot* (1929).  
*The Painted Minx* (1930).  
*The Rake and the Hussy* (1930).  
*War Paint and Rouge* (1931).  
*Whistling Cat* (1932).  
*Whatever Love Is* (1933).  
*Secret Service Operator 13* (1934).  
*The Young Man's Girl* (1934).  
*The Gold Chase* (1935).  
*Love and the Lieutenant* (1935).  
*Beating Wings* (1936).  
*Marie Halkett* (1937).  
*The Fifth Horseman* (1937).  
*Smoke of Battle* (1938).

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## New Acquisitions

**T**HIS SECTION reviews from time to time the important gifts and purchases received in the Library for the period between issues of the CHRONICLE. It is a selective list, and is not always able to mention every item which may be worthy of attention, but it is intended that it shall always be representative of the more significant type of acquisitions.

### LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION

Ecuador, a land of sharp variations in topography, climate, and vegetation, has called scientists for centuries. It was to Ecuador that Charles Marie de la Condamine went in 1735 to find evidence with which to settle the Newton-Cassini debate over the shape of the world. In this land of contrasts located athwart the equator it was hoped that data would be obtained to prove whether the world was flattened at the poles and pushed out at the middle or was a prolate spheroid lengthened at the poles and pulled in at the equator. Here too Condamine and his aids were to ascertain the length of a degree of latitude, a matter of primary importance to the ship-masters sailing the seven seas.

With Condamine went the French botanist Jussieu, who gave to the French Academy the first account of the chinchona tree from whose bark is made "one of the supreme drugs of all times: chinchona," better known as quinine. From that day to this Ecuador has continued to attract scientists, especially botanical collectors. Among the small number of these who have published accounts of their findings are William Jameson, Richard Spruce, Hans Meyer, and Ludwig Diels, whose works have recently been acquired by the library.



William Jameson, a Scottish doctor, went to Ecuador in 1826, where he lived for over forty years, teaching chemistry and botany in the Central University of Quito. The Ecuadorian government in 1864 commissioned him to prepare a synopsis of the flora of the country, and in 1865 two volumes of his *Synopsis Plantarum Aequatoriensium* were printed. The work, which described many new species unknown to science, was incomplete. A part of the third volume was published, for the British Museum has one hundred and thirty-six pages of it and gives the publication date as 1865. Professor James Orton of Vassar College, who visited with Dr. Jameson in Quito, in 1867, says, however, that only two volumes were printed at that time. (James Orton, *The Andes and the Amazon*, New York, 1870, p. 102.) The Central University of Ecuador in 1940 published a second edition of the *Synopsis Plantarum Aequatoriensium* (Quito, 1940), in which the third volume is included. The preface of this second edition in discussing the last volume says that James Orton published it, but no date of publication is given.

*A Narrative of the Surveying Voyage of Her Majesty's Ships Adventure and Beagle* came off the press in 1839, and the third volume, Charles Darwin's *Journal*, came into the hands of a young Yorkshireman, Richard Spruce. The sections about botany inspired him with a desire to do for botany in South America what Darwin had done for zoology and geology. Lack of money impeded the realization of this wish until 1849 when the British botanist George Bentham agreed to advance the money for Spruce to go to South America to make botanical collections to be sold to various subscribers in Great Britain. He spent four years on the Upper Orinoco collecting plants. Then in 1855 Great Britain commissioned him "to procure seeds and plants of the Red Bark Tree containing the chemical ingredient known as quinine so that plants and seedlings of the chinchona tree could be established in India." So it was that Richard Spruce set out for Ecuador where he met William

Jameson and lived for some nine years fulfilling his commission. Spruce kept a record of his travels with the intention of publishing it, but ill-health in his last years made it impossible for him to organize his material. After his death, however, the material was edited and condensed by Alfred Russel Wallace and published under the title *Notes of a Botanist on the Amazon & Andes* (2v, London, 1908). The first volume of this work has been translated into Spanish by Professor Gustavo Salgado and published by the Central University with the title *Notas de un botánico sobre el Amazonas y los Andes* (Quito, 1942).

In the twentieth century two German scientists have contributed to the knowledge of Ecuadorean flora. Hans Meyer worked in Ecuador in 1903. He went there primarily to make a geological study of its volcanoes, but like many others, he was attracted by the varied plants, which he collected and carried back to the botanical museum in Berlin. An account of his visit which appeared in Berlin in 1907 was translated into Spanish and published in Quito with the title *En los altos Andes del Ecuador*. Ludwig Diels, another German botanist, collected Ecuadorean flora in 1933. The report of his findings came out in Stuttgart in 1937 and was translated into Spanish by Dr. Reinaldo Espinosa under the title *Contribuciones al conocimiento de la vegetación y de la flora del Ecuador* (Quito, 1938). This work of Diels is extremely useful, for it contains not only an annotated list of vascular plants collected by the author in 1933 but also an account of the ecology of Ecuador, an alphabetical list of some forty-seven botanical collectors in Ecuador with brief biographical studies of each, and a bibliography.

## GENERAL

### I

Several notable additions have been made to the Library's Fine Arts collections. The first of these, *Polyphonies du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle; le manuscrit H. 196 de la Faculté de Médecine de Mont-*

*pellier*, edited by Mme. Yvonne Rokseth, consists of a facsimile reproduction of the manuscript and its transcription into modern notation.

In the first five fascicles of the transcription are found examples of conductus, hockets and organa by Perotin and other composers in Latin, and motets for four, three, and two voices in French. Fascicles 6 to 8 are devoted entirely to French motets. This edition is a valuable source for the study of early polyphony.

*The Old English Edition* . . . edited by G. E. P. Arkwright, Oxford, 1889-1902, 25 volumes in 5, contains representative English music from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. In Volume I there appears the masque in honor of the marriage of Lord Hayes (1607), the music of which is written by Thomas Campion and other composers; six songs by D. T. Arne, three of them scored for small orchestra; and twenty-four madrigals by George Kirbye (1597) for four, five, and six voices respectively. "Divers and Sundry (Sacred and Secular) Airs" by William Byrd, for three, four, five and six voices, and Christopher Tye's mass, "Euge Bone," for six voices, appear in Volume II. Madrigals and ballets form Volume III: madrigals by Alfonso Ferrabosco (from the collection *Musica Transalpina*, 1588), for five and six voices; and twenty-four ballets and madrigals by Thomas Weelkes (1598) for five voices. Weelkes again appears in Volume IV, with "Airs or Fantastic Spirits" (1608) for two sopranos and one alto voice; the last, "Remembrance of my friend Mr. Thos. Morley," is for six voices. This same volume also contains the "First Book of Songs or Airs" by Thomas Pilkington (1605) for four voices, and a Pavin for lute and bass-viol. Volume V, which extends to the eighteenth century, offers anthems and motets by White, Kirbye, Wilbye, and Daman; six anthems by John Milton, father of the poet; six songs from the "Amphion Anglicus" by John Blow (1700); six songs from "Orpheus Britannicus" by Henry Purcell (1698);

and the vocal score of the masque "Venus and Adonis," also by John Blow.

## II

*Die Monogrammisten* . . . Muenchen, 1858-79 was the second of the monumental undertakings of Georg Kaspar Nagler, an antiquarian. Earlier he published the *Neues Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon*, a copy of which is to be found in this Library. Both sets are valuable sources for the lives and careers of artists of all kinds. They are especially valuable in the field of prints, containing material which is obtainable from no other single source. *Die Monogrammisten*, which was the result of years of intense investigation and research, is concerned specifically with artists, some unknown and some identified, who signed their works with initials, signs, or abbreviations. About fifteen thousand monograms are included and about twelve thousand artists. The author searched the art objects themselves, catalogues, albums, print cabinets, and every other available source, and he corresponded with other investigators in his effort to be as inclusive as possible. He died before the work was completed, but an assistant, C. Clauss, successfully completed it.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE is edited by Joseph Jones, Department of English, and published by the Library of The University of Texas, Austin 12, Alexander Moffit, Librarian.

